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January 29, 1965.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BRANCH

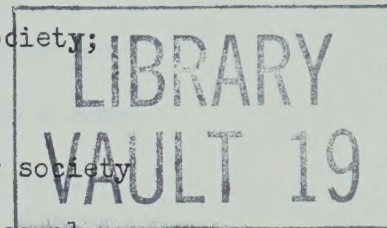
The Community Development Branch, which is the newest branch within the Department of Industry and Development, came into being on July 1st, 1964. The objectives of this branch are:

- I. to assist people to organize their communities so that normal community services which are presently available to the majority of our citizens are also available to native peoples (Indians and Métis);
- II. to assist people to improve their own social and economic situations vis-a-vis the rest of society;  
and
- III. to help create a social climate in our wider society which will allow native people to assume an equal place with other Alberta citizens.

Although Community Development is presently directed toward our native citizens there is no reason it could not be applied to any group in a community setting. The fact that the program is focused on a community rather than on an individual or on a family implies the use of certain methods and the expectation of certain kinds of results.

This program is put into practice in a community by a Community Development Officer whose problem is threefold:

- I. He must gain an intimate knowledge of the people and their situation as quickly as possible;
- II. He must gain the confidence of the people; and
- III. He must act as a resource person to the community without assuming the work or the responsibilities of the people.







The basic assumptions of this program are:

- I. There are no healthy people who are not concerned about their own predicament.
- II. There are no people who will not act in their own self interest.
- III. Many social and psychological ills are caused because people have neither the knowledge nor the skills to act effectively in their own interest.

As a result of the preceding assumptions, it may be concluded that if certain knowledge and skills were introduced into a community, then the people might be motivated to attempt to better their own situation. This is precisely what a Community Development program attempts to do.

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The basic assumptions of this project are:

I. There are no healthy people who are not concerned

about their own predicament.

II. There are no people who will not act in their own self

interest.

III. Any social and psychological life are caused because

people have neither the knowledge nor the skills to

act effectively in their own interest.

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munity, then the people might be expected to act in their own

self-interest. This is the basic assumption of the project.

It is to be

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